

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01514 191912Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /029 W
-----057791 191914Z /47/40

R 180545Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7255

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R P A R A O N E

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG, EFIN, SY
SUBJ: INQUIRY TO INR; PRICING OF SYRIAN HEAVY CRUDE

1. DOES INR OR OTHER BUREAU HAVE INFORMATION ON PRICES RECEIVED FOR SYRIAN PETROLEUM EXPORTS? IN OUR EFFORTS DEVISE (OR INVENT) SYRIAN BOP FIGURES, PETROLEUM EXPORT RECEIPTS ARE SIGNIFICANT BUT MOST INFORMATION CLOSELY HELD.

2. UNDERSTAND FROM ECONOMIC JOURNALS THAT HEAVY, HIGH SULFUR CRUDE IS IN LARGE SURPLUS ON WORLD MARKETS: SYRIAN PRODUCTION IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVE HEAVY AND HIGH SULFUR. WE KNOW 1977 CRUDE PRODUCTION DOWN ABOUT 7-8 PERCENT FROM 1976 MAXIMUM 10.5 MILLION TONS. WE ALSO REASONABLY COURTAIN SYRIA EXPORTED NO LESS THAN 85 PERCENT HER 1977 PRODUCTION. UNFORTUNATELY SYRIA SELLS ALL HER PETROLEUM ON SPOT MARKET AND PROCES ARE CLOSELY HELD FOR COMPETITIVE AS WELL AS POLITICAL REASONS. WE HAVE HEARD TALES OF PRICE SPREAD FROM DOLLARS 13 TO DOLLARS 10 PER BARREL. ANY INFO ON E. MEDITERRANEAN PRICES FOR HEAVY CRUDE IN GENERAL AND SYRIAN CRUDE IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED.
MURPHY

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 01514 191912Z

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, PRICES, PRICE DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAMASC01514
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0714, D780122-0031
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780352/aaaabrne.tel
Line Count: 55
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11a37cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3283750
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INQUIRY TO INR; PRICING OF SYRIAN HEAVY CRUDE
TAGS: ENRG, EFIN, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11a37cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014